

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS**IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A tone generation apparatus for generating a tone on the basis of performance information, a plug-in board being removably attachable to said tone generation apparatus, said plug-in board being capable of generating a tone on the basis of performance information and extending a tone generating function of said tone generation apparatus, said tone generation apparatus comprising:

a nonvolatile memory that is capable of storing at least one of a set of all tone color name information and a set of all tone parameter name information of all tone color data possessed by said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus;

a display that displays tone color names, on the basis of the tone color name information stored in said nonvolatile memory, when any one of tone colors possessed by said plug-in board is selected, or displays tone color parameter names, on the basis of the tone color parameter name information stored in said nonvolatile memory, when any one of the tone colors possessed by said plug-in board is to be edited;

a detector that detects whether a plug-in board replacement has taken place in said tone generation apparatus; and

an updating processing section that, when it is detected by said detector that the plug-in board replacement has taken place, updates stored contents of said nonvolatile memory with tone color name information or tone parameter name information of tone color data possessed by another plug-in board newly attached to said tone generation apparatus.

Claim 2 (original): A tone generation apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said nonvolatile memory is further capable of storing plug-in board identification information identifying said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus, and

wherein said detector detects whether or not the plug-in board replacement has taken place in said tone generation apparatus, by comparing plug-in board identification information obtained from said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus and the plug-in board identification information stored in said nonvolatile memory.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A tone generation apparatus to which a plug-in board is removably attachable, said plug-in board being capable of generating a tone on the basis of performance information and extending a tone generating function of said tone generation apparatus, said tone generation apparatus comprising:

- a tone generation section that generates a tone on the basis of performance information;

- a tone color selection section that selects tone colors of tones to be generated by said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus and by said tone generation section;

- an offset editing section that edits a tone color possessed by said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus, by adding desired modification data to tone color data of the tone color possessed by said plug-in board, the desired modification data being prestored in said tone generation apparatus; and

- a transfer control section that, when any tone color is selected via said tone color selection section, transfers a tone color number and the modification data of the selected tone color to said plug-in board if the selected tone color has already been edited by said offset editing section, but transfers only the tone color number of the selected tone color if the selected tone color has not yet been edited by said offset editing section.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A tone generation apparatus for generating a tone on the basis of performance information, a plug-in board being removably attachable to said tone generation apparatus, said plug-in board being capable of generating a tone on the basis of performance information and extending a tone generating function of said tone generation apparatus, said tone generation apparatus comprising:

- a performance information generation section that generates first performance information on the basis of a readout from a storage device;

- a performance information reception section that receives second performance information given from outside said tone generation apparatus;

- a merging processing section that merges said first performance information generated by said performance information generation section and said second performance information received by said performance information reception section, to thereby provide merged performance information, wherein a tone is generated by at least one of said tone generation apparatus and said plug-in board on the basis of the merged performance information provided by said merging processing section; and

- a supply section that supplies tempo clock information to said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus,

whereby said plug-in board is allowed to generate a tone in synchronism with the tempo clock information supplied by said supply section.

Claims 5 and 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): A tone generation apparatus as claimed in claim 32 which further comprises an input/output control section that transfers the tone color information of the custom voice, stored in said nonvolatile memory, to an external storage medium for saving, thereto, of the tone color information of the custom voice and that receives tone color information of a custom voice stored in an external storage medium and loads the received tone color information into said nonvolatile memory.

Claims 8 and 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A tone generation apparatus to which a mono-part tone generator plug-in board and another plug-in board are is removably attachable, said mono-part tone generator plug-in board including a mono-part tone generator device that generates a tone in response to a performance of one particular performance part from among performances of a predetermined plurality of performance parts, said tone generation apparatus comprising:

a tone generation section that generates tones of one or more performance parts in response to performances of one or more performance parts from among performances of a predetermined plurality of performance parts;

a tone color selection section that selects tone colors of tones to be generated by said tone generation section and said mono-part tone generator device; and

a control section that, when a tone color selected for a tone of one given performance part being generated by said mono-part tone generator device has been selected by said tone color selection section as a tone color for a tone of another performance part, performs control to cause said tone generation section or the other plug-in board to generate the tone of the one given performance part with a substitute tone color for the selected tone color ~~inhibits generation of the tone of the one given performance part~~ and performs control to cause said mono-part tone generator device to generate the tone of the other performance part with the selected tone color[[:]]

~~wherein another plug-in board is also removably attachable to said tone generation apparatus, and~~

~~wherein said control section, instead of inhibiting the generation of the tone of the one given performance part, performs control to cause said tone generation section or the other plug-in board to generate the tone of the one given performance part with a substitute tone color for the selected tone color.~~

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A tone generation apparatus to which a mono-part tone generator plug-in board and another plug-in board are is removably attachable, said mono-part tone generator plug-in board including a mono-part tone generator device that generates a tone in response to a performance of one particular performance part from among performances of a predetermined plurality of performance parts, said tone generation apparatus comprising:

a tone generation section that generates tones of one or more performance parts in response to performances of one or more performance parts from among performances of a predetermined plurality of performance parts;

a tone color selection section that selects tone colors of tones to be generated by said tone generation section and said mono-part tone generator device; and

a control section that, when a tone of one given performance part being generated by said mono-part tone generator device corresponds to a manual performance and when a tone color selected for the tone of the one given performance part has been selected by said tone color selection section as a tone color for a tone of another performance part, performs control to cause said tone generation section or the other plug-in board to generate the tone of the other performance part with a substitute tone color for the selected tone color ~~inhibits generation of the tone of the other performance part~~ and thereby allows said mono-part tone generator device to continue generating the tone of the one given performance part with the selected tone color[[:]]

~~wherein another plug-in board is also removably attachable to said tone generation apparatus, and~~

~~wherein said control section, in stead of inhibiting the generation of the tone of the one given performance part, performs control to cause said tone generation section or the other plug-in board to generate the tone of the other performance part with a substitute tone color for the selected tone color.~~

Claim 13 (previously presented): A storage management method for use with a tone generation apparatus to which a plug-in board is removably attachable, said plug-in board being capable of generating a tone on the basis of performance information and extending a tone generating function of said tone generation apparatus, said tone generation apparatus including a nonvolatile memory that is capable of storing at least one of a set of all tone color name information and a set of all tone parameter name information of tone color data possessed by said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus, said storage management method comprising:

a step of displaying tone color names, on the basis of the tone color name information stored in said nonvolatile memory, when any one of tone colors possessed by said plug-in board is selected, or displaying tone color parameter names, on the basis of the tone color parameter name information stored in said nonvolatile memory, when any one of the tone colors possessed by said plug-in board is to be edited;

a step of detecting whether a plug-in board replacement has taken place in said tone generation apparatus; and

a step of, when it is detected by said step of detecting that the plug-in board replacement has taken place, updating stored contents of said nonvolatile memory with tone color name information or tone parameter name information of tone color data possessed by another plug-in board newly attached to said tone generation apparatus.

Claim 14 (original): A machine-readable storage medium containing a group of instructions to cause said machine to perform the storage management method as claimed in claim 13.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A tone color control method for use with a tone generation apparatus to which a plug-in board is removably attachable, said plug-in board being capable of generating a tone on the basis of performance information and extending a tone generating function of said tone generation apparatus, said tone color control method comprising:

a step of selecting a tone color of a tone to be generated by said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus;

a step of editing a tone color possessed by said plug-in board, by adding desired modification data to tone color data of the tone color possessed by said plug-in board, the desired modification data being prestored in said tone generation apparatus; and

a step of, when any tone color is selected via said step of selecting, transferring a tone color number and the modification data of the selected tone color to said plug-in board if the selected tone color has already been edited by said step of editing to thereby allow the selected tone color of the transferred tone color number to be controlled by said plug-in board in accordance with the transferred modification data, but transferring only the tone color number of the selected tone color if the selected tone color has not yet been edited by said step of editing.

Claim 16 (original): A machine-readable storage medium containing a group of instructions to cause said machine to perform the tone color control method as claimed in claim 15.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A tone generation method using a tone generation apparatus to which a plug-in board is removably attachable, said plug-in board being capable of generating a tone on the basis of performance information and extending a tone generating function of said tone generation apparatus, said tone generation method comprising:

a step of generating first performance information on the basis of a readout from a storage device;

a step of receiving second performance information given from outside said tone generation apparatus;

a step of merging said first performance information generated by said step of generating and said second performance information received by said step of receiving, to thereby provide merged performance information, wherein a tone is generated by at least one of said tone generation apparatus and said plug-in board on the basis of the merged performance information provided by said merging processing section; and

a step of supplying tempo clock information to said plug-in board attached to said tone generation apparatus,

whereby said plug-in board is allowed to generate a tone in synchronism with the tempo clock information supplied by said step of supplying.

Claim 18 (original): A machine-readable storage medium containing a group of instructions to cause said machine to perform the tone generation method as claimed in claim 17.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): A machine-readable storage medium containing a group of instructions to cause said machine to perform the tone generation method as claimed in claim 33.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): A machine-readable storage medium containing a group of instructions to cause said machine to perform the storage management method as claimed in claim 34.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A tone generation method for use with a tone generation apparatus to which a mono-part tone generator plug-in board and another plug-in board are is removably attachable, said mono-part tone generator plug-in board including a mono-part tone generator device that generates a tone in response to a performance of one particular performance part from among performances of a predetermined plurality of performance parts, said tone generation method comprising:

a step of generating tones of one or more performance parts in response to performances of one or more performance parts from among performances of a predetermined plurality of performance parts;

a step of selecting tone colors of tones to be generated by said step of generating and said mono-part tone generator device; and

a control step of, when a tone color selected for a tone of one given performance part being generated by said mono-part tone generator device has been selected by said step of selecting as a tone color for a tone of another performance part, performing control to cause said tone generation section or the other plug-in board to generate the tone of the one given performance part with a substitute tone color for the selected tone color ~~inhibiting generation of the tone of the one given performance part and performs~~ performing control to cause said mono-part tone generator device to generate the tone of the other performance part with the selected tone color[[;]]

~~wherein another plug-in board is also removably attachable to said tone generation apparatus, and~~

~~wherein said control step, in stead of inhibiting the generation of the tone of the one given performance part, performs control to cause said step of generating or the other plug-in board to generate the tone of the one given performance part with a substitute tone color for the selected tone color.~~

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (original): A machine-readable storage medium containing a group of instructions to cause said machine to perform the tone generation method as claimed in claim 24.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): A tone generation control method for use with a tone generation apparatus to which a mono-part tone generator plug-in board and another plug-in board are is removably attachable, said mono-part tone generator plug-in board including a mono-part tone generator device that generates a tone in response to a performance of one particular performance part from among performances of a predetermined plurality of performance parts, said tone generation control method comprising:

a step of generating tones of one or more performance parts in response to performances of one or more performance parts from among performances of a predetermined plurality of performance parts;

a step of selecting tone colors of tones to be generated by said step of generating and said mono-part tone generator device; and

a control step of, when a tone of one given performance part being generated by said mono-part tone generator device corresponds to a manual performance and when a tone color selected for the tone of the one given performance part has been selected by said step of selecting as a tone color for a tone of another performance part, performing control to cause said tone generation section or the other plug-in board to generate the tone of the other performance part with a substitute tone color for the selected tone color ~~inhibiting generation of the tone of the other performance part~~ and thereby allowing said mono-part tone generator device to continue generating the tone of the one given performance part with the selected tone color[[:]]

~~wherein another plug-in board is also removably attachable to said tone generation apparatus, and~~

~~wherein said control step, in stead of inhibiting the generation of the tone of the other performance part, performs control to cause said step of generating or the other plug-in board to generate the tone of the other performance part with a substitute tone color for the selected tone color.~~

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (original): A machine-readable storage medium containing a group of instructions to cause said machine to perform the tone generation control method as claimed in claim 28.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A tone generation apparatus to which a plug-in board is removably attachable, said tone generation apparatus comprising:

a tone generation section that causes the attached plug-in board and a tone generator device provided within said tone generation section to generate a tone on the basis of performance information;

a performance information generation section that generates performance information including tempo clock information to be used in an automatic performance or automatic accompaniment;

a performance information reception section that receives performance information given from outside said tone generation apparatus; and

a merging processing section that merges the performance information generated by said performance information generation section and the performance information received by said performance information reception section, to thereby provide merged performance information,

wherein, on the basis of the merged performance information, said performance information generation section causes the attached plug-in board and said tone generator device to generate a tone synchronized to the tempo clock information.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A tone generation apparatus having a plurality of slots each provided for attachment of a plug-in board, said tone generation apparatus comprising:

a tone generation section that causes plug-in boards attached to respective one of the slots and a tone generator device provided within said tone generation section to generate a tone on the basis of performance information;

a nonvolatile memory capable of storing, in association with the plurality of slots, tone color data of custom voices stored in said plug-in boards attached to the respective slots and board identification of said plug-in boards;

a storage section capable of storing, in said nonvolatile memory, the tone color data of the custom voices stored in a RAM provided in said plug-in board attached to each of the slots, along with the board identification information of said plug-in board; and

a detection section that, upon power-on, determines whether there is a match between the board identification obtained from said plug-in board attached to each of the slots and the board identification information of the slot stored in said nonvolatile memory,

wherein, when said detection section determines that there is the match, the tone color data of the custom voices in said plug-in board of the slot, stored in said nonvolatile memory, are written into the RAM provided in said plug-in board.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A tone generation method using a tone generation apparatus to which a plug-in board is removably attachable, said tone generation method comprising:

- a step of generating a tone by the attached plug-in board and a tone generator device within said tone generation apparatus on the basis of performance information;

- a step of generating performance information including tempo clock information to be used in an automatic performance or automatic accompaniment;

- a step of receiving performance information given from outside said tone generation apparatus; and

- a step of merging the performance information generated by said step of generating performance information and the performance information received by said step of receiving performance information, to thereby provide merged performance information,

wherein, on the basis of the merged performance information, causing the attached plug-in board and said tone generator device to generate a tone synchronized to the tempo clock information.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A tone generation method using a tone generation apparatus having a plurality of slots each provided for attachment of a plug-in board, said tone generation method comprising:

a step of generating a tone by plug-in boards attached to respective one of the slots and a tone generator device within said tone generation apparatus on the basis of performance information, wherein said tone generation apparatus comprises a nonvolatile memory capable of storing, in association with the plurality of slots, tone color data of custom voices stored in said plug-in boards attached to the respective slots and board identification of said plug-in boards in a nonvolatile memory;

a step of storing, in said nonvolatile memory, the tone color data of the custom voices stored in a RAM provided in said plug-in board attached to each of the slots, along with the board identification information of said plug-in board; and

a step of detecting, upon power-on, determines whether there is a match between the board identification obtained from said plug-in board attached to each of the slots and the board identification information of the slot stored in said nonvolatile memory,

wherein, when said step of detecting determines that there is the match, the tone color data of the custom voices in said plug-in board of the slot, stored in said nonvolatile memory, are written into the RAM provided in said plug-in board.